

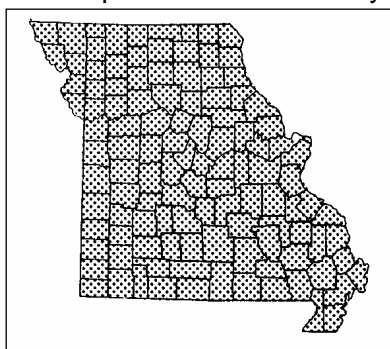
## Red Oak Group (including Black Oaks)

*Quercus* spp.

Since all lumber from the red and black oaks is lumped together in commercial trade, I will call this the red oak group. It includes, but is not limited to, northern red oak (*Q. rubra* L.), pin oak (*Q. palustris* Meunchh.), scarlet oak (*Q. coccinea* Muenchh.), shumard oak (*Q. shumardii* Buckl.), black oak (*Q. velutina* Lam.), southern red oak (*Q. falcata* Michx.), cherrybark oak (*Q. falcata* var. *pagodaefolia* Ell.), blackjack oak (*Q. marilandica* Muenchh.), shingle oak (*Q. imbricaria* Michx.) and others. The red oaks grow throughout the state to various degrees, depending upon the site and species. They attain their best size and growth rate on medium textured, deep, moist soils, but some species such as blackjack oak are found on some of the poorest sites when considering soil texture, moisture and depth.

Some of this group are commercially important, some are not. It is neither desirable nor practical to separate the red oaks by species once they are cut into lumber. The sapwood is generally creamy white and the heartwood is reddish to light reddish brown. The wood is distinctly ring porous with large visible pores, hard, heavy, and strong. It is fairly easy to work. It has a characteristic sour odor when green, which becomes less distinct upon drying. Red oak is difficult to dry, but is very stable once the moisture is removed. The sanding and finishing qualities are excellent. The large pores in red oaks are hollow as compared to white oak, and the wood is not liquid-tight. Ray fleck apparent.

The uses of red oak are too numerous to mention. Almost anything made of wood has at one time or another been made from red oak. It is most popular as furniture wood, veneer, paneling, as molding and trim, in picture frames, flooring and railroad ties, farm lumber, pallets and crating, as well as charcoal. Its pleasant, uniform color and grainy texture make it an excellent wood for home workshops and it is commonly available.



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